men and they may occupy the highest positions ; even then they are not free from such searching inquisition. There have been cases in which the Directors have been dragged to the civil or criminal courts. Honourable members are aware that very recently in England, Mr. Horatio Botomly, who was known to be a man of high position and influence and was an M. P., had to face a criminal court because he did something wrong in connection with a company and had to go to jail. Such a thing is unknown in India or at least in Travancore. It has become therefore necessary that Government should intervene in these matters and that some provision should be available to protect and safeguard the interests of the shareholders. With this view this Bill has been passed by the Assembly and I now commend the principles of the Bill for the acceptance of this House.

Mr C. O. Madhavan : I second it.

President : Moved and seconded that the Travancore Companies Regulation (Amendment) Bill, as passed in the Assembly, be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

President : The question is whether Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 do form part of the Bill.

The motion was carried and the Clauses were added to the Bill

PREAMBLE.

President : The question is whether the Preamble shall be added to the Bill.

The motion was carried, and the Preamble was added to the Bill.

TITLE OF THE BILL.

President : The question is whether the title shall be added to the Bill.

The motion was carried and the title was added to the Bill.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai : I move that the Travancore Companies Regulation (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : I second it.

President : Moved and seconded that the Travancore Companies Regulation (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried and the Bill was passed.

THE TRAVANCORE BREACH OF CONTRACT (REPEALING) BILL.

Mr Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai : Sir, I beg to move that the Travancore Breach of Contract (Repealing) Bill, as passed by the Sri Mulam Assembly, be taken into consideration.

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Mr. C. O. Madhavan: I second it.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: I shall briefly explain the principles of this Bill. The object of the Bill, as honourable members have no doubt noticed, is to repeal certain enactments which provide for the punishment of breaches of contract committed by certain classes of labourers and artificers. There are two such enactments now in force in Travancore. One is the Travancore Breach of Contract Regulation of 1080 as amended subsequently which provides for the punishment of artificers, workmen and labourers. The other provisions are contained in the Penal Code, *viz.*, Sections 493 and 495 of the Travancore Penal Code. Section 493 provides for punishment of persons engaged during voyages. Section 495 provides for punishment for refusal to serve at a distant place to which the servant was conveyed at the master's expenditure. I am sure that the House is conversant with these Sections and that it is not necessary for me to read them. In British India, the corresponding enactments have been repealed by Act III of 1925. The International Labour Conference of 1930 has expressed the view that, as far as possible, compulsory labour should be put an end to as early as possible. This principle has been accepted in British India generally and the Government also feel that the enactments referred to are against the spirit of the evil condemned by the Convention and should be repealed. In Mysore, action has been taken already and they repealed the corrosponding Regulations there by Regulation IV of 1933. This Bill, though it was published some months ago, could be introduced in the Assembly only recently and it was passed there in one sitting. I am sure the principles of the Bill which are non-controversial will be accepted by the House.

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: I second it.

The motion that the Bill be taken into consideration was put and carried.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: Sir, in support of this Bill I have to say a few words. It is always better to be late than never. The provisions of law which are now sought to be repealed by this Bill have really been a blot in our Statute Book.

Mr. Kochikal P Balakrishnan Tampi: Is the member aware that he is preaching to the converted as far as this Bill is concerned ?

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: Sir, I could not hear the honourable member.

President. It is good that you do not.

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Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: Even when the Breach of Contract Regulation was first introduced in the Legislative Council there was serious opposition from the non-official members, as it was aimed to curtail the freedom and independence of the labourer and other classes of people. Then the voice of non-officials was too feeble, and in spite of opposition the Government succeeded in placing that measure on the Statute Book chiefly to help and promote the interests of a few European planters in the country and for the last several years we were allowing a sort of slavery to go on in the State. I would therefore hail this Bill as a piece of labour legislation and congratulate the Government and the member in charge of this Bill for the readiness with which they have recognised the current of feeling in this country.

With these few words I have great pleasure in supporting this Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2.

The question that Clauses 1 and 2 do form part of the Bill was put and carried.

The Clauses were added to the Bill.

Schedule.

The question that the Schedule be added to the Bill was put and carried.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Preamble.

The question that the preamble shall be part of the Bill was put and carried.

The Preamble was added to the Bill.

Title of the Bill.

The question that the title be added to the Bill was put and carried

The title was added to the Bill.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: Sir, I move that the Travancore Breach of Contract (Repealing) Bill be passed.

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: I second it.

The question that the Travancore Breach of Contract (Repealing) Bill, as passed by the Śri Mulam Assembly, be passed was put and carried.

The Bill was passed.

President: The House will now adjourn and meet to-morrow at 11 0' clock.

The Council adjourned at 11-52 A. M.

P. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI,
Secretray to the Sri Chitra State Council

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